



# FIRE FIEND CLAIMS ALL

**Every Human Effort Fails to Check  
Onward Sweep of All Devouring  
Flames--Whole City Scene of  
Indescribable Horror.**

## DYNAMITE AND CANNON POWERLES

**Palatian Residences on Van Ness Avenue Bombarded By Cannon and  
Blown Up With Dynamite, In Vain Attempt to Check Fire  
Thousands of Homeless Starving in Streets.**

SAN FRANCISCO, April 19.—San Francisco tonight is the city desolate. It seems the scene of its misery was reached at dusk when the flames burst from all sides of the beautiful Hotel Fairmont, the palace that was above every other structure, was apparently the most strongly entrenched against the attack of the all-consuming fire, and surrounding the lofty pinnacle flame, as far as the eye can see to the south, to the east and far out to the west lay in cruel fantastic heaps charred and smoking, all that remains of the prosperous city. This was another day of the uneven struggle of man against unconquerable nature. Acre after acre was ground into dust and ashes, despite the heroic perseverance of the firemen to limit the conflagration. Tonight the hope is that the worst is nearly reached, and that when tomorrow dawns the end will come, but the hope is faint indeed.

### San Franciscans Not Discouraged

But San Francisco is not discouraged. The best of the highest class already has begun to plan for its restoration and care for the stricken ones, and the relief will be immediate and effective. Total subscriptions of \$180,000 are announced. Arrangements have been made for the immediate relief of the needy. The baking of 5000 loaves of bread will begin tomorrow.

### Devastation Grows and Grows

With each succeeding hour the devastation and destruction in this stricken and prostrate ruin of the city grows and grows. At 6 o'clock tonight it seemed as if nothing could save the comparatively small portion of the city yet remaining unburned. The entire business and wholesale district is now only a glowing furnace, while giant tongues of fire have reached westward far beyond Van Ness avenue and are wiping out buildings and seeking more to devour. At 4 o'clock Mayor Schmitz and Chief Dinan saw that the only hope of saving the Western addition with its forest of frame dwellings and the Richmond district with its thousands of homes, was to check the cruel march of the wall of fire at Van Ness avenue which crosses the city from north to south, where the retail store and fine apartment house district ends, and where the residence section begins. This avenue is 150 feet wide and the possibilities of checking the march of the flames was here looked on as hopeful to those who were looking for ways and means in the hour of need.

### Final Stand Made on Van Ness Avenue

Orders were given to concentrate every fire engine in the city at this avenue and to marshal troops of soldiers and police and all the army of workers and make one last determined stand to save the remainder of the city.

The co-operation of the artillery was secured and a huge cannon was drawn to the avenue by the madly dashing horses to aid the dynamiters in blowing up the mansions of the millionaires on the east side of Van Ness avenue in order to prevent the flames from leaping across the highway and starting on their unrestrained sweep across the western additional.

### Cannon Destroys Mansions

Every available pound of dynamite was hauled to the spot and the sight was one of stupendous and appalling havoc, as the cannon were trained on the palaces and the shot tore into the walls and toppled the building in a crashing ruin. At other points dynamite was used on house after house, and dwellings worth millions were lifted into the air by the power of the bellowing blast and dropped to the earth, a mass of dust and debris. The work was necessarily dangerous and many exhausted workmen kept going working through the stretch of forty-eight hours without sleep and scarcely any food, through the force of instinctive heroism alone.

### Many Persons Killed

Many have been killed while making this last desperate stand. Many of the workers in placing the blasts took chances that spelled injury or death. The fire line at 6 o'clock extends a mile along the east side of Van Ness avenue and Pacific street to Ellis. All behind this, excepting the Russian Hill region, a small district along the north beach, has been swept clean by the flames, and great steel bulks of buildings, pipes, shafts, and spires have been dropped into a molten mass of debris, like so much melted wax.

### Artillery Roars Above Flames

The steady booming of the artillery and the roar of dynamite above the howl and cracking of the flames continues with monotonous and dazing regularity. Such noises have been bombarding the ears of the panic-stricken people since the earthquake of forty-eight hours ago.

A trip to the hills and to the water front is one of terrible hardship. Famishing women, children and exhausted men kept walking several miles around the north shore in order to avoid the flames and reach the ferries. Many dropped to the ground under the weight of their loads.

Probably 100,000 refugees are struggling to get out of the city, and hourly the task is becoming more difficult as the fire and heat cut off avenue after avenue of escape.

The streets are filled with the struggling people, crying, weeping, and calling for missing loved ones. Crowding all the sidewalks in the unburned area are thousands and thousands of homeless people. Men with ropes are dragging trunks tandem style. Others have sewing machines strapped to their trunks. Women are rushing for the hills, carrying in their arms only the family cat or bird cage. In every excavation hole throughout North Beach, householders are burying their household effects, throwing them into ditches and covering the holes. Attempts are made to mark to graves of the property so it can be recovered after the flames have appeased.

They have ceased to heed the sound and rush pell-mell drowning their senses in a bedlam of their own creation. There seemed to be an irresistible power behind the flames that even the desperately heroic measures being taken at Van Ness avenue could not stay.

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FIRE IS YET UNDIMINISHED  
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OAKLAND (midnight)—At this hour the light from burning San Francisco does not appear diminished and is almost, if not quite, as brilliant as last night. Although the flames have swept their way three miles westward from the waterfront the entire sky is illuminated by the glare of the unchecked conflagration.  
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### Water Will Come Today

It was announced that tomorrow there would begin a daily delivery into the city of ten million gallons of water. Tonight direct communication will begin with the outside by telegraph. By overcoming great obstacles, the Postal Telegraph Company has managed to regain one of its shattered lines. The Postal office tonight is located in a little wooden structure erected on piles at the water front shore.

### Three Distinct Fires Burning

Tonight three distinct fires are burning. One on that portion which extends from Nob Hill toward the water front. It was traveling slowly toward the Telegraph Hill section. The center fire is on Mission. The fire has reached Eighteenth street, but is making little headway. The third most dangerous fire is that threatening the western section. This is really a continuation of the Nob Hill fire. The wedged shaped apex is pushing forward. This is the point against which the firemen are bending their greatest efforts.

### Blowing Up More Blocks

Dynamite is used for back firing purposes with only fair success. Tonight many blocks may be blown up. Chief of Police Dinan said he thought 250 would fully cover the number of dead. He has found it impossible to secure details. About fifty bodies have thus far been found.

### Hunger Causes Severe Suffering

Tonight the suffering to many from hunger is extreme. On the water front what bread is to be had is being sold for a dollar a loaf, and in some instances much higher. Bread is beginning to arrive from Berkeley and Oakland and is being distributed in the north end by relief parties organized by Mayor Schmitz.

### Works of Art Destroyed

When the mansion on Nob Hill, the Fairmont Hotel and Mark Hopkins Institute were approached by the flames today many attempts were made to remove some of the priceless works of art, from the

### Give Monster Banquet

BALTIMORE, April 19.—All the local theaters will unite tomorrow afternoon in a monster banquet for the sufferers by the San Francisco earthquake.

CHICAGO, April 19.—Chicago will take immediate official action to aid in relieving the suffering and destitution in San Francisco. A special meeting of the city council has been called for today at 4 p. m. at which resolutions of sympathy will be made.

### Will Aid Stricken City

NEW YORK, April 19.—The New York building trades union voted last night to send an army of their unemployed members to San Francisco to aid in the clearing of the city.

### U. of C. Building Escape Unharmed

BERKELEY, April 19.—The University of California buildings escaped the earthquake unharmed. Falling chimneys did much damage throughout the town of Berkeley, however, and the town hall collapsed. The deaf and dumb asylum is a complete ruin and the high school was considerably damaged.

### FAIRMOUNT HOTEL IN FLAMES.

The Fairmount Hotel on Nob Hill is in flames. The structure will probably not be seriously damaged, as it is nearly as fire proof as possible to make it.

### Oakland Cares for Refugees

OAKLAND, April 19.—Oakland tonight housed and fed probably 50,000 refugees. All day a stream of humanity has poured from the Ferries. Thousands of Chinese all carrying luggage are fleeing from their quarters, that have long been one of the show places, poured into the limited Chinese section of Oakland. Thousands besieged the telegraph offices, and the rush is so great that soldiers are stationed at the doors to keep in line and allow only as many to pass as can find standing room at the counters.

### Los Angeles Will Send \$200,000,000

LOS ANGELES, April 19.—All cities at this end of the state are organizing relief committees to succor San Francisco. Two hundred thousand dollars will be pledged by the Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles.

### Los Angeles Badly Frightened

LOS ANGELES, April 19.—At 12:33 Los Angeles experienced a distinct earthquake shock of short duration. Absolutely no damage was done, but thousands of people were badly frightened. Tall office buildings and many stores were hurriedly deserted. The shock passed off in a few minutes. The San Francisco horror has strung the populace here to a high tension.